

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Test strips and methods for their use in the detection of an analyte in a sample are provided. The subject test strips are characterized by at least including a water soluble  
5 tetrazolium salt on a surface of a positively charged substrate. In many embodiments, the water soluble tetrazolium salt is present as part of an analyte oxidizing signal producing system, which system includes one or more of the following additional components: an analyte oxidizing enzyme, e.g., an analyte dehydrogenase or an analyte oxidase; an  
electron transfer agent; and an enzyme cofactor. Also provided are systems and kits  
10 incorporating the subject test strips. The subject test strips, systems and kits find use in the measurement of a wide variety of analytes in a sample, such as a physiological sample, e.g., blood or a fraction thereof.